

The Rockwood Review

The performers who took part were—T. McCammon, Billy Shea, J. Davidson, W. Woods, Miss O'Rourke and Miss Convery. There was not a "stick" in the troupe and nothing funnier has been produced by the Dramatic Troupe. It would be invidious to praise any particular actor when all did so admirably. Not a hitch occurred and the stage looked particularly pretty with its brilliant lighting and effective scenery. Altogether the Xmas of 1901 at Rockwood was a decided success.

Mr. James Stuart held a most successful raffle for a gramophone a short time since. James claims that the winner was a lucky man and made an excellent investment.

The curling fever seems to have struck Kingston with a good deal of intensity and we are pleased to notice that the Granites have been adopted for all matches. This is a distinct advance for while irons have their advantages, for all round fun the Granite is infinitely preferable. Certainly the game is less like hard work when Granites are used and is livelier, although it must be admitted that the possibilities of "flukes" are also greater. That means more happiness for the fellows who make them. We never make them here, so the element is never considered by us here.

Rockwood Staff has once more been called upon and Mr. Ed. Gilmour receives the appointment of Chief Attendant in the Eastern Hospital, Brockville. Mr. Gilmour is sure to make a success of this position and his promotion is well deserved.

The Relation of Sparrows to Agriculture.

IMPORTANCE OF SPARROWS.

The native sparrows are the most abundant and widely distributed of the small birds inhabiting the rural districts of the United States. Wherever there are farms these characteristic little birds may be found nesting in orchard, berry patch, vineyard, or hedge-row, enlivening the shrubbery from dooryard to outlying field with their songs, or in winter rising from the ground and fluttering from bush to bush before one who invades their haunts. As a group they are constantly present on cultivated land, although many of them retire to the South during the winter and their places are taken by other species from the North.

Sparrows are well known, and have figured frequently in ornithological literature, but the position they occupy in relation to agriculture has heretofore received only casual consideration. It is evident that a group of birds so abundant, so widely distributed, and in such constant association with farms and gardens must play an important part in rural economy; and that a thorough investigation of their food habits should be useful. The results of such an investigation are embodied in the present paper and amply demonstrate the value of these birds to the agriculturist—a value greater than that of any other group of birds whose economic status has thus far been investigated. The native sparrows contrast markedly in this respect with the introduced English spar-